

TOMS RIVER - A Berkley Township man was presented with a Purple Heart by U.S. Rep. John Adler, 50 years after his service in the Korean War.

Army Cpl. Philip James Reed was awarded the medal Wednesday in a small ceremony at Adler's Toms River office.

Reed had been recognized for his valor, earning the Combat Infantry Badge, United Nations Service Medal and the Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, but had never received the Purple Heart, despite having been injured.

"Our veterans deserve our respect and gratitude," said Adler, D-3rd. "I applaud Cpl. Philip James Reed for his distinguished service and selflessness. This honor is long overdue, and I am glad my office was able to help."

Reed, a lifelong New Jersey resident, became a police officer in Kearney, married his wife, Dolores, and raised three children. The Reeds moved to Berkeley 12 years ago.

After moving to Berkeley, Reed joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Silver Holiday Post No. 10185, where he would eventually serve as commander. He was joined by his wife and the Berkeley Mayor Jason Varano at the ceremony.

"I am grateful to be recognized for the sacrifice I made for our great country," Reed said. "I thank Congressman Adler for helping me receive this honor and for sharing this moment with my family. My thoughts and prayers are with the brave men and women serving in our armed forces today."